

**SAN JUAN COUNTY SOLID WASTE**  
Public Input for Decision Making

Report presented to  
The San Juan County Council and Public Works Department

by

Nina Rook

Marketing Resources

August 30, 2010

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## **Executive summary**

This report summarizes the findings of a mail and Internet survey of San Juan County residents conducted in July, 2010 in support of updating the County's Solid and Hazardous Waste management plan. The survey was mailed to a randomly selected core sample of 4,000 households; use of random sampling ensures that the results from the sample broadly represent the wider community. A total of 1052 responses from our core sample was received by the response cut-off date for a response rate of 26.3%. The large number of responses resulted in a *worst case* error of  $\pm 3\%$ , while the combination of random sampling and high response rates assure results for the core sample that are broadly representative of the entire community.

An additional 233 respondents participated in a publically accessible version of the survey, for a total of 1285. This response rate is high for a single-shot mail survey, indicating a high interest level in our topics. Additionally, over 70% of respondents completed the open-ended questions and added additional text comments, some of them at length. The size of the response and the engagement of the respondents indicate that solid waste management is of great interest to the County community. Our respondents were overwhelmingly year-round residents, came from throughout the county, and had personal experience of using the systems on the islands.

### ***Allocation of resources among services***

When asked whether they would like to allocate less, about the same, or more resource to 19 different Solid Waste functions:

- Respondents would like more of everything -- a higher level of service. Core respondents would like to assign more resources to 17 of the 19 options. Respondents' priorities were ranked and are reported below
- The top priorities for the core respondents were self-haul drop-off, hazardous waste drop-off, and dealing with construction waste. Curbside pick-up ranked last.

The significant differences between islands are that, compared to other locations:

- San Juan (County) (unincorporated San Juan Island) and the Outer Islands (islands without ferry service) would allocate more resources to self-haul drop-off
- Outer Islands would allocate more resources to hazardous waste drop-off
- San Juan (County), Friday Harbor and the Outer Islands would allocate more resources to increasing hours
- Lopez would allocate more resources to re-use, to self-sorting recyclables and to improving parking, and less to composting yard waste
- Orcas allocated more resources to composting food wastes and other scraps
- The Outer Islands consistently allocate more resources to most of the services presented

### ***Considering different organizational structures***

When asked how favorable they were to different organizational structures, including more local control, setting up a cooperative, or maintaining the current system:

- Only “more use of volunteers. . .” was scored much above the midpoint in favorability
- Lopez was more favorable to local control and to local advisory committees
- Orcas and Shaw were more favorable to maintaining the current system

#### ***Attitudes towards paying for solid wastes***

- While respondents claimed to agree with emphasizing waste reduction and re-use, they were less agreeable to specific means, e.g. taxes, or to paying for recycling.
- Lopez and Friday Harbor were more favorable towards each island having its own system
- Friday Harbor was more supportive of pay for recycling – though still with less than a median score.

#### ***Support of different budget solutions***

- No solution to budgetary challenges rated above the midpoint, except for “regular audits of solid waste”.
- There is some evidence from the open-ended comments, that there are two sets of beliefs that could solve the financial issues. One is that reducing inefficiencies, firing staff or cutting pay for San Juan County solid waste would reverse the situation; the other is that a carefully managed recycling program would generate significant revenue.
- The highest ranked solution that addressed the structural problem of charging only for garbage while garbage is decreasing is the concept of an annual household recycling “membership”. Orcas and Shaw were the most favorable to all the mechanisms for dealing with budget imbalances that were suggested
- Only Shaw scored consistently above the midpoint on multiple scales.

#### ***Findings from the Analysis of Open-ended Questions***

The top five issues from the analysis of the verbatim comments were:

- Consistent/ longer hours/more days
- Frustration (with SW management, Council, lack of decisions)
- Curbside garbage/ recycling pick-up
- Privatize
- Education

There were significant differences in incidence in five of the 31 categories established:

- Composting was mentioned favorably less by Lopez respondents, than others
- Improved traffic flow was mentioned more often by San Juan islanders (both County and Friday Harbor)
- Lopez and Friday Harbor were more likely to cite keeping the existing system/no change
- Lopez respondents were more likely to mention local control, and
- San Juan County respondents more likely to want to reduce recyclables.

The significant differences between core respondents and self-selecting additional respondents are also reported.

## 1. Methodology

The San Juan County Public Works department is currently updating the county's Solid and Hazardous Waste management plan. The updated plan will guide the department in capital and program development for the next several years.

The objective of this project was to characterize county residents' attitudes, beliefs and values about solid waste management through a transparent, inclusive process allowing any interested resident to participate. The public input will be valuable in making urgent decisions as well as for establishing a long-term plan. We aimed to engage as many residents as possible, regardless of their ability or interest in attending public meetings, to ensure that their views were understood. This survey gave us the opportunity to listen to voices representing opinions from a cross section of the community, especially those who may be under-represented at public meetings.

In designing the study, we (Marketing Resources) faced two major challenges:

- Balancing the need for careful consideration of complex issues, with the potential for discouraging participation because of complexity or length
- Gaining the participation of the largest cross-section of the county, within current budgetary constraints

We developed a self-report survey using a series of roundtable meetings (Exhibit 1) as well as related planning documents as background research. In the round table meetings, issues and goals were discussed in an open dialog format to give a local voice and priority to complex issues. The survey is included as Appendix I. To ensure that we captured all issues important to our residents, we included two open-ended questions, as well as a number of formally structured questions.

### *Exhibit 1: Round-table meetings*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Partnering group</b>	<b>No. attending</b>
May 11, 2010	Orcas Island	SWAC/former SWAC members & friends	6
May 12, 2010	Orcas Island Library	Sustainable Orcas	12
May 19, 2010	Lopez Island	Lopez Community Land Trust	7
June 3, 2010	Lopez Island Library	Lopez Village Planning Review Committee	3
June 25, 2010	Shaw Island	Community Center	7
June 9, 2010	San Juan Island	Stewardship Network of the San Juans (Information briefing)	8
June 23, 2010	San Juan Island Library	San Juan Island Chamber of Commerce	2
June 28, 2010	San Juan Island Library	Former SWAC members; Anti-Litter Committee	3

To ensure that no one who wished to participate in the survey would be left out and that no issues important to the public would be overlooked, we developed a two-pronged approach.

Firstly, we mailed the survey to a random sample of 4,000 out of the 9,000 households in the county, which formed our core sample. This represented about 44% of island households. Random sampling is pivotal in ensuring reliable results. While we provided a reply-paid envelope for the response, we also provided the URL of a web-based version of the survey, for people who preferred that modality.

In parallel, we made the survey available at a second, publicly available URL via the County website, and publicized its existence through conventional and social media. This gave us a second batch of respondents, a group of self-selected “at large” or “additional” respondents.

All responses were handled directly by Marketing Resources.

Once the data from the paper surveys had been entered into the database, all responses received before the cut-off date were identified by source (core or additional) and were analyzed. Our analysis focused on the core sample, but results for the additional self-selected respondents are also reported.

#### A note on data analysis and reporting

1. Random sampling: The core sample was drawn randomly from the island household, which, with the high response rate, assures that the responses are broadly representative of the community. Similar surveys, however, have still shown an under-representation of lowest income and language minority households.
2. Complete vs Partial Responses: “Complete” responses were those where the final questions were answered. Responses could be “partial” for two reasons: in the on-line survey, we did not force people to include open-ended responses; for the paper survey, we could not force anyone to complete *any* specific question. Any valid response to a question was included in the analysis of that question, so that the total number of responses varies from question to question.
3. This study used a number of scale questions (classic Likert scales) which are a powerful way to collect and analyze data. All of the scales were from 1 to 7, with 4 being the midpoint.
4. In considering differences between different islands and between our core and self-selected respondents, we focus on differences that are “statistically significant”. Where there is very little spread in the data, relatively minor differences can be “significant” while having little practical effect. Where there is a lot of spread in the data, means that may look different on a chart, may be so blurred that they do not pass the test of “significance”. Results are marked with an asterisk (\*) as “significant” if the probability of their happening being a random occurrence is less than one in twenty ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).
5. The total responses received led to a *worst case* error of  $\pm 3\%$  for the core group. For example, if the proportion of residents in our sample responding in a specific way was 84.0%, the “true” proportion in the overall population would fall between 82.7% and 85.3% with a 95% confidence level. This level of precision provides robust data for management decision-making.
6. The findings are presented *in order of the questions in the survey*, rather than by importance of the finding. A data summary that presents the overall responses to each question in the survey, in

- question order, with breakdowns by island and by core compared to additional respondents, is included as Appendix III
7. This report presents graphical summaries of the results. The data tables underlying the graphs are included in Appendix III
  8. In this survey, we received extensive open-ended input from our respondents. 73% of our respondents chose to include open-ended commentary, totaling over 33,000 words -- the text equivalent to a short novel. These comments are included as Appendix II. Coding this data is difficult; ignoring it would distort our results and potentially ignore major findings. The process we followed was:
    - a. From our initial identification of key issues and from the first 50 responses, we developed categories for inclusion. The initial categories were tested and revised for the next few dozen responses, then retained.
    - b. A count was assigned for *each respondent* for *each category*. For example, if a respondent wrote vehemently in support of re-use in each open-ended question and on the back of the paper, that translated into a single count for re-use. If the respondent supported re-use in one question, longer hours in another, and wrote in the margins about hazardous waste, that would result in a count in each of these three categories.

## 2. Responses

### *Exhibit 2: Overall response*

Source		Number	Percent
		4000	
Mail	Complete	913	
	Partial	50	
On-line	Complete	69	
	Partial	20	
	Total analyzed	1052	26.3%
Mail (Late)	Paper surveys received after cut-off	152	
	Grand total	1204	30.1%

Some 30% of our core survey recipients returned the survey or completed it on-line. A total of 1052 responses (26.3%) entered in to the analysis, with the balance arriving after the cut-off (Exhibit 2). The large response, 1052 respondents, results in a *worst case* error of  $\pm 3\%$  for the core group. 233 additional respondents participated in the second, publicly available survey, out of about 5,000 households that did not receive a survey, for a response rate of this group of about 4.7%.

This response rate for the core group is very high for a single-shot mail survey, indicating a high interest level in our topics. It exceeded the response rate for comparable surveys in San Juan County, for affordable housing

(18%), Parks planning (20% for county residents) and renewable energy planning (9%) and forms a reliable basis for decision-making.

### ***Response by island***

Island of residence was available for 91% of respondents, as shown in Exhibit 3 below. The response rate was highest for Lopez, at 29%. 93.9% listed San Juan County as their primary residence; 3.5% WA state, outside San Juan County, and 2.6% outside Washington State.

*Exhibit 3: Response by Island*

	Mailed	Responses	Percent
San Juan Island (FH + County)	1893	458	24.2%
Orcas	1308	317	24.2%
Lopez	663	192	29.0%
Shaw	79	20	25.3%
Outer (Blakeley, Center, Henry, Stuart, Waldron)	57	12	21.1%
All Grps	4000	999	25.0%

### **3. Recent use of self-haul and commercial services**

21% of respondents had a commercial service pick up garbage or recyclables at their curb in the past 2 weeks, while 72% core respondents had visited a solid waste facility (Exhibit 4), with most doing multiple transactions at the facility (Exhibit 5).

Exhibit 4: Number of visits to solid waste facility in previous 2 weeks

Number of times	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
0	258	24.7%
1	556	53.3%
2	181	17.3%
3	32	3.1%
Other	17	1.6%

Exhibit 5: Transactions at most recent trip to a county solid waste facility

	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Dropped off recyclable materials	934	89.5%
Dropped off garbage	664	63.6%
Left or acquired items at a re-use facility (Exchange, Take It or Leave It)	303	29.0%
Dropped off motor oil, antifreeze, tires or medical waste	81	7.8%
Dropped off appliances, scrap metal, or electronic waste	76	7.3%

Dropping off recyclables was the most common transaction, while the most common combination trip was dropping off both garbage and recyclables

#### 4. Prioritizing Solid Waste services and resources

In a series of questions, we asked where respondents fell on a continuum of resources allocated to specific services and priorities, some of which are now provided, and others not. For each, they were instructed to state whether the county should *devote less resource* – in terms of time, effort and/or money – *keep resources about the same*, or *devote more resource*.

Exhibit 6 shows the priorities expressed by the core respondents:

- Respondents would like more of everything, for a significantly higher level of service. Core respondents would like to assign more resources to 17 of the 19 options. Respondents' priorities are ranked and reported below.
- The top priorities for allocating more resources for the core respondents were
  - Self-haul drop-off of garbage and recyclables
  - Hazardous waste drop-off
  - Construction waste re-use/recycling
- Curbside pick-up ranked last.

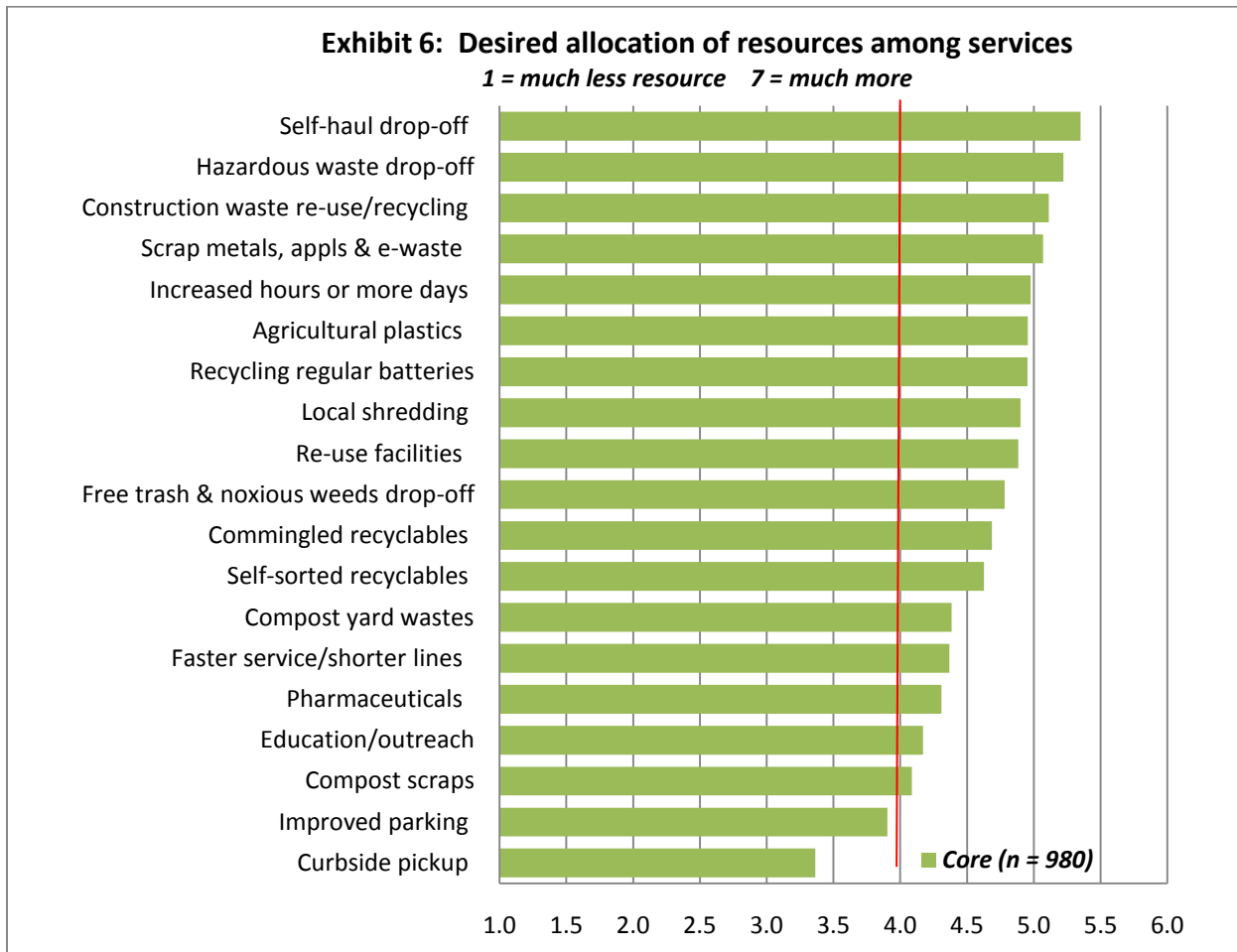
Typical comments (drawn from the verbatims) were:

*Make self-haul convenient and efficient*

*More opportunity to get rid of hazardous waste*

*Could more construction waste be recycled?*

*Don't force everyone to have only curbside pickup at their house*



**5. Considering different organizational structures**

Of the options offered, only

“Making more use of volunteers along with county employees, to increase re-use and recycling, litter pick-up and weed control”

was scored much above the midpoint (Exhibit 7). Separate disposal districts, cooperatives and local advisory committees ranked about the same as maintaining the current system, for respondents as a whole.

Comments about volunteer usage showed very different visions:

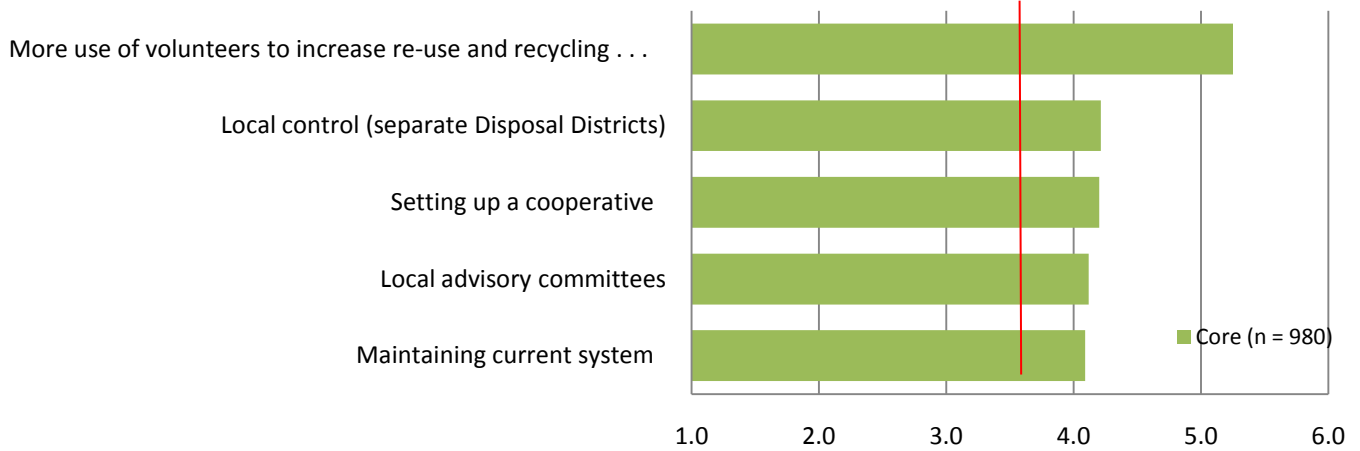
*Adult volunteers to lead kids?*

*I believe that there would be enough local support to get volunteers to help if we have the chance to provide more services to our community*

*All volunteers, union wages are killing us!*

**Exhibit 7: Favorability towards different organizational structures**

*1 = not at all favorable 7 = very favorable*



**6. Attitudes towards paying for solid wastes**

The two statements that drew broad agreement from respondents were:

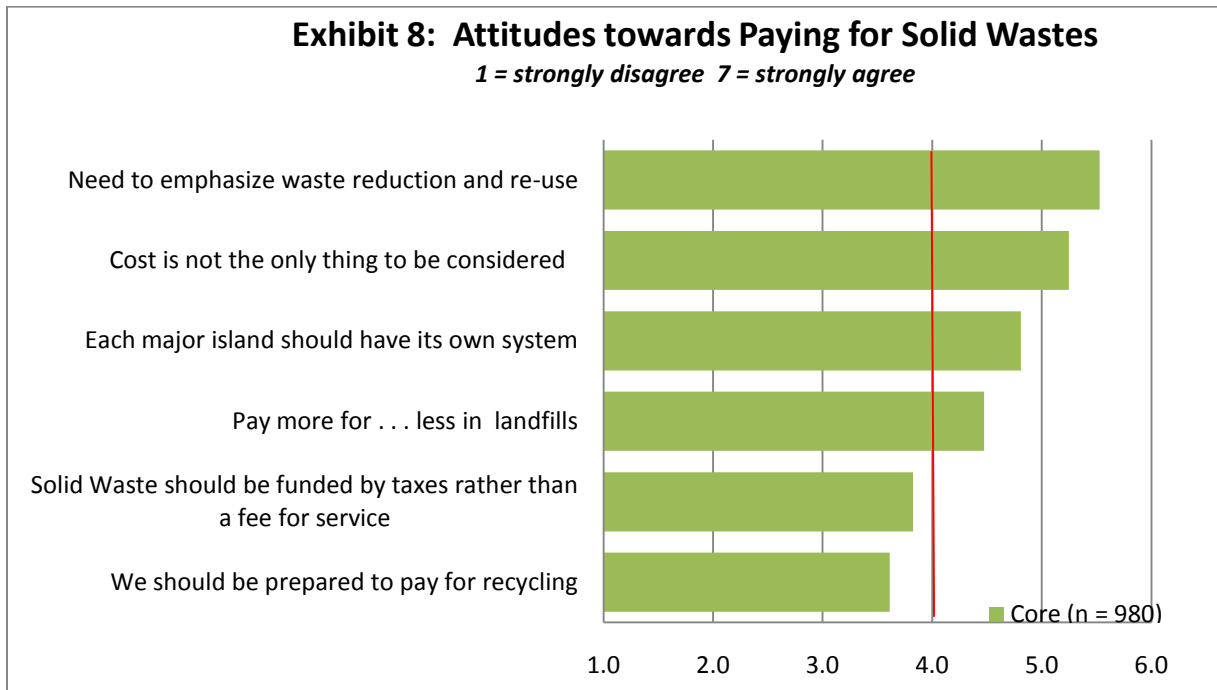
“The results of recycling just aren’t enough – we need to emphasize waste reduction and re-use” and

“Cost is not the only thing to be considered in the administration of public policy.”

While respondents claimed to agree with emphasizing waste reduction and re-use, they were less agreeable to specific means, e.g. taxes, or to paying for recycling (Exhibit 8).

*Continue to encourage recycling/reuse. . .*

*I strongly am opposed to fees for any type of recycling*



## 7. Support of different budget solutions

No solution to budgetary challenges rated above a 4 for core respondents, except for “regular audits of solid waste” that have no short-term implications (Exhibit 9).

The highest ranked solution that addressed the structural problem of charging only for garbage while garbage is decreasing, is the household “membership” -- “Support the recycling program through a ‘membership’ or ‘license’ that would cost \$32.00 per household/year, assuming each household buys a membership’. This ranked higher than property tax, recycling tipping fees, a parcel tax or a gate fee.

*Install small "membership" like fee for recycling not per trip fee*

*Membership per household: If recycle/reuse facility/open time/expanded—Yes*

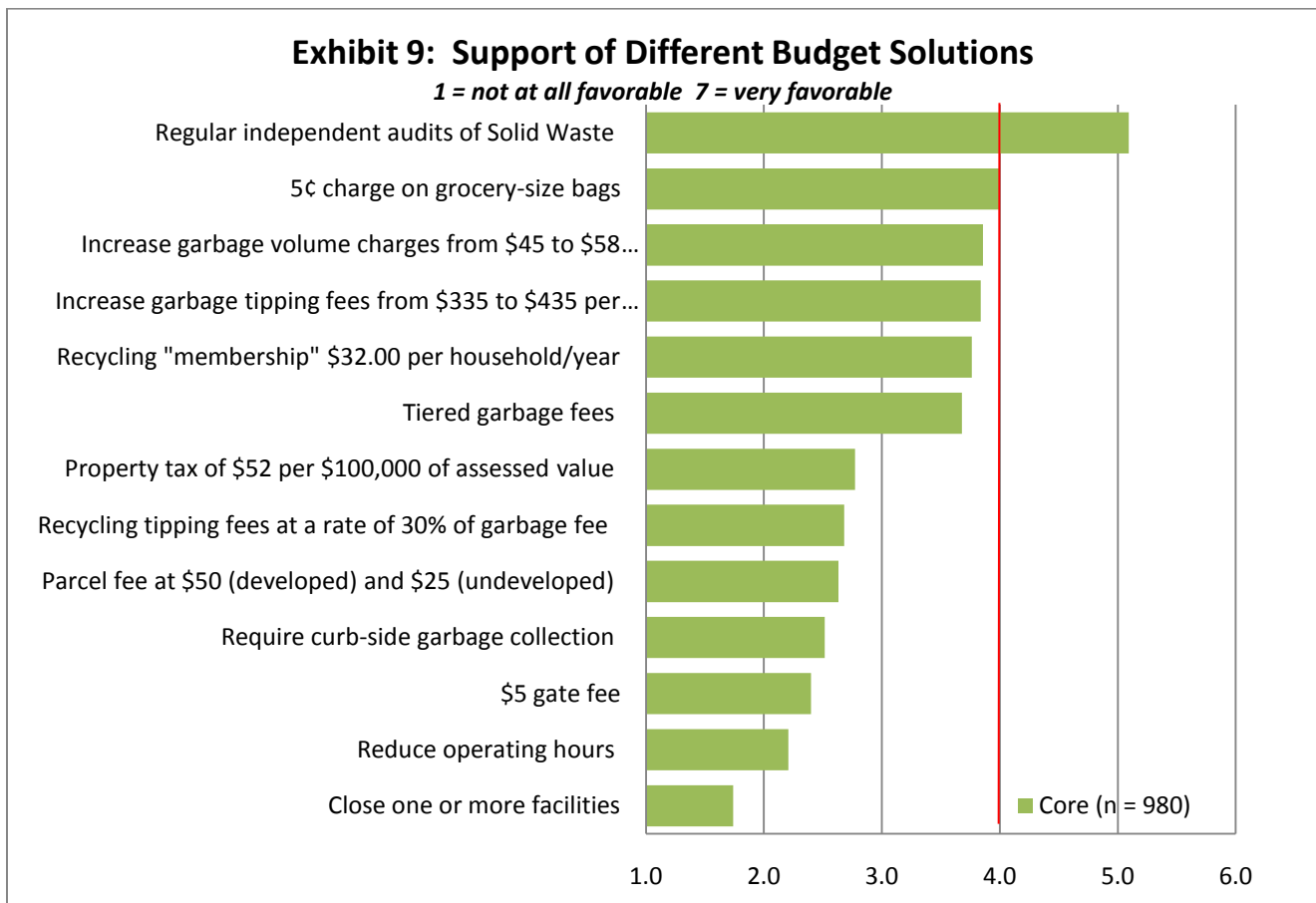
The highest ranked short-term solutions overall were to increase garbage tipping and volume fees, although some believe they are already at the point of disincentive:

*If the fees got much higher I believe people will start dumping all over the island*

*Make prices cheaper. A lot of my friends are taking their waste items to the transfer station in Anacortes.*

All approaches to charging for recycling led to some criticism:

*If you start charging for recycling, people won't do it. Better to charge more for garbage. So people will throw away less.*



## 8. Island by Island Analysis: Prioritizing Solid Waste services and resources

This section displays the results for different islands on two separate charts, for clarity. The groupings are:

- San Juan (County), San Juan (Friday Harbor), Orcas and Lopez
- Shaw, Outer Islands (as a group), and All Groups

Note that significant differences reported for each service are across all categories.

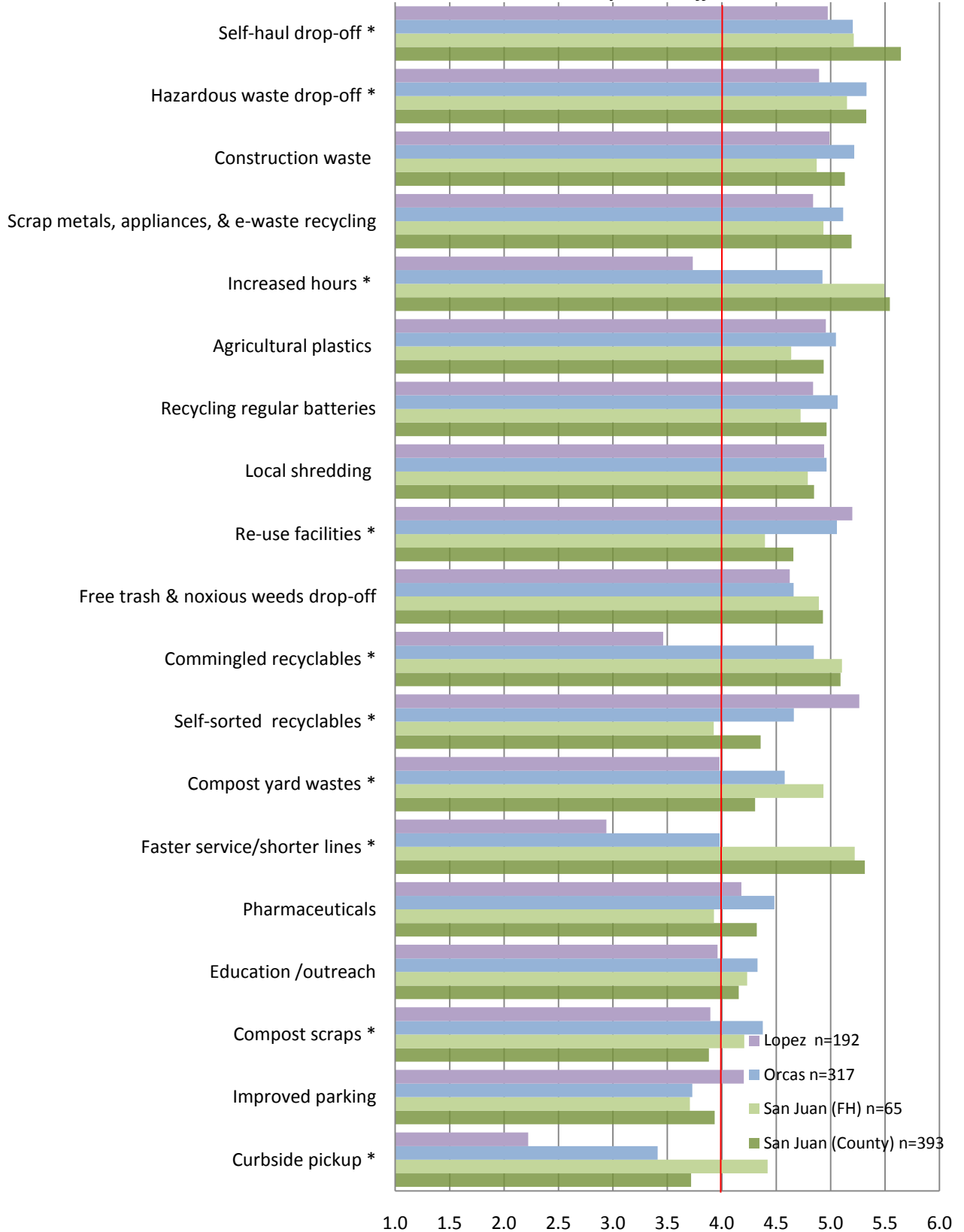
The significant differences between islands are that, compared to other locations:

- San Juan (County) and the Outer Islands would allocate more resources to self-haul drop-off (Exhibits 10 and 11)
- Outer Islands would allocate more resources to hazardous waste drop-off (Exhibit 11)
- San Juan Island (both County and Friday Harbor) and the Outer Islands would allocate more resources to increasing hours (Exhibits 10 and 11)
- Lopez would allocate more resources to re-use, to self-sorting recyclables and to improving parking, and less to composting yard waste (Exhibit 10)
- Orcas allocated more resources to composting food wastes and other scraps (Exhibit 10)
- Friday Harbor allocated more resources to composting yard waste and to curbside pick-up (Exhibit 10)
- The Outer Islands consistently allocate more resources to most of the services presented (Exhibit 11)

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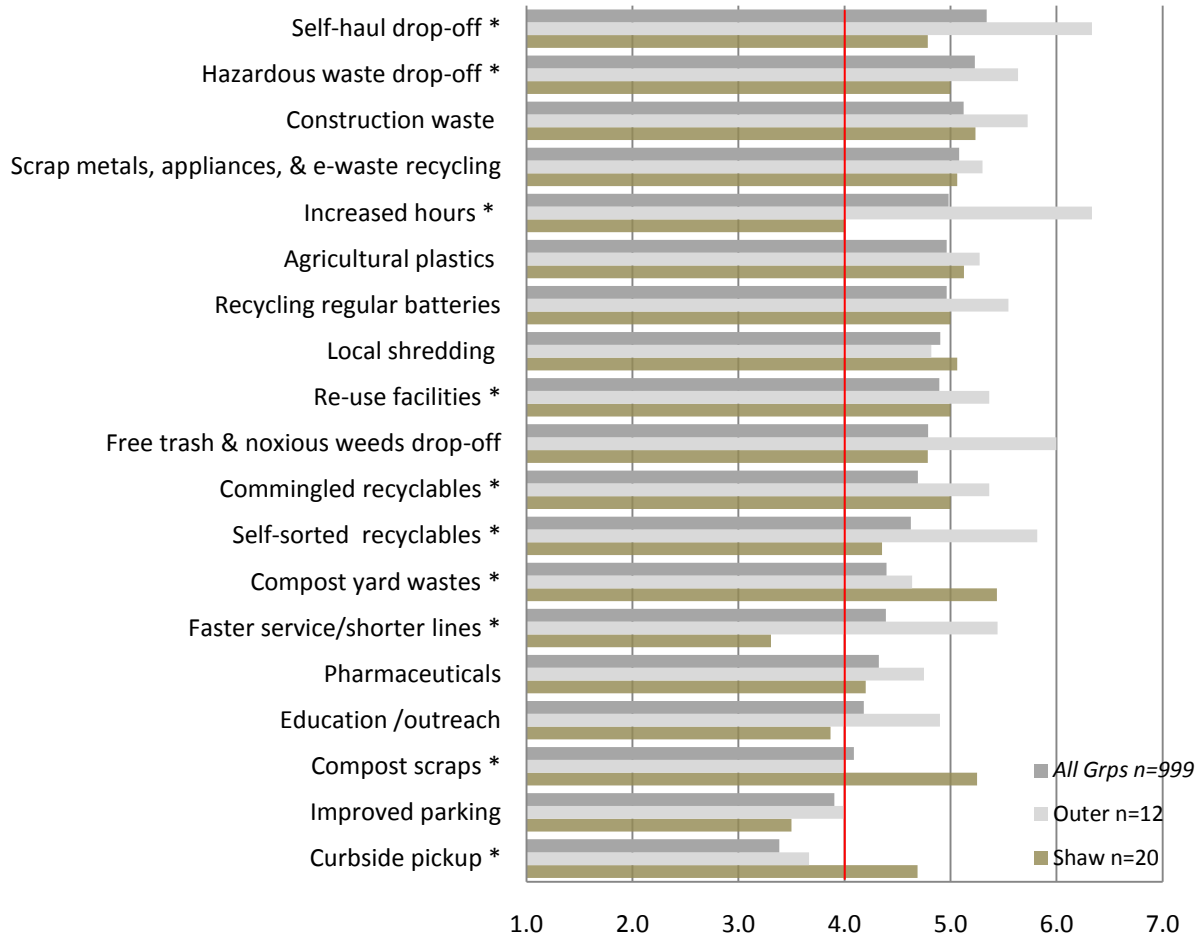
### Exhibit 10: Desired allocation of resources among services

1 = much less resource 7 = much more \* statistically robust differences



### Exhibit 11: Desired allocation of resources: Other Islands

1 = much less resource 7 = much more \* statistically robust differences

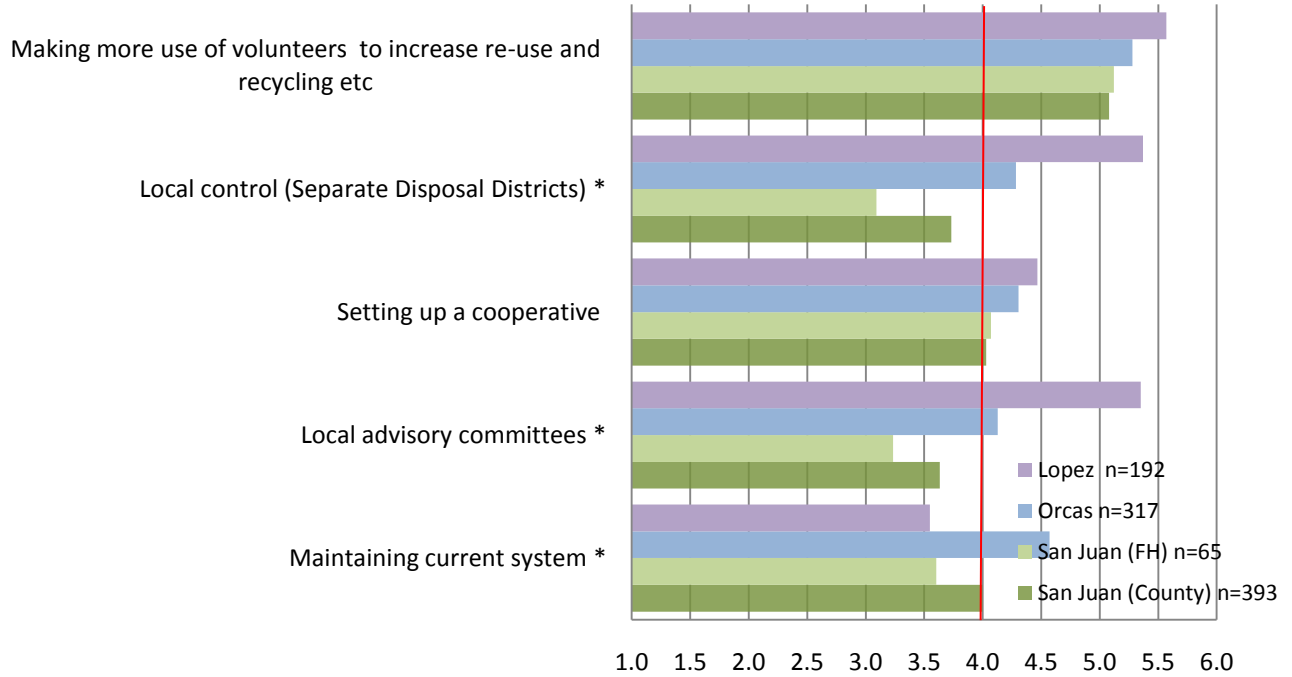


#### 9. Island by Island Analysis: Favorability toward different structures

- Lopez was more favorable to local control and to local advisory committees, and less favorable towards maintaining the current system (Exhibit 12)
- Orcas and Shaw were more favorable to maintaining the current system (Exhibit 12)
- Friday Harbor was less favorable towards separate disposal districts and to local advisory committees (Exhibit 12)

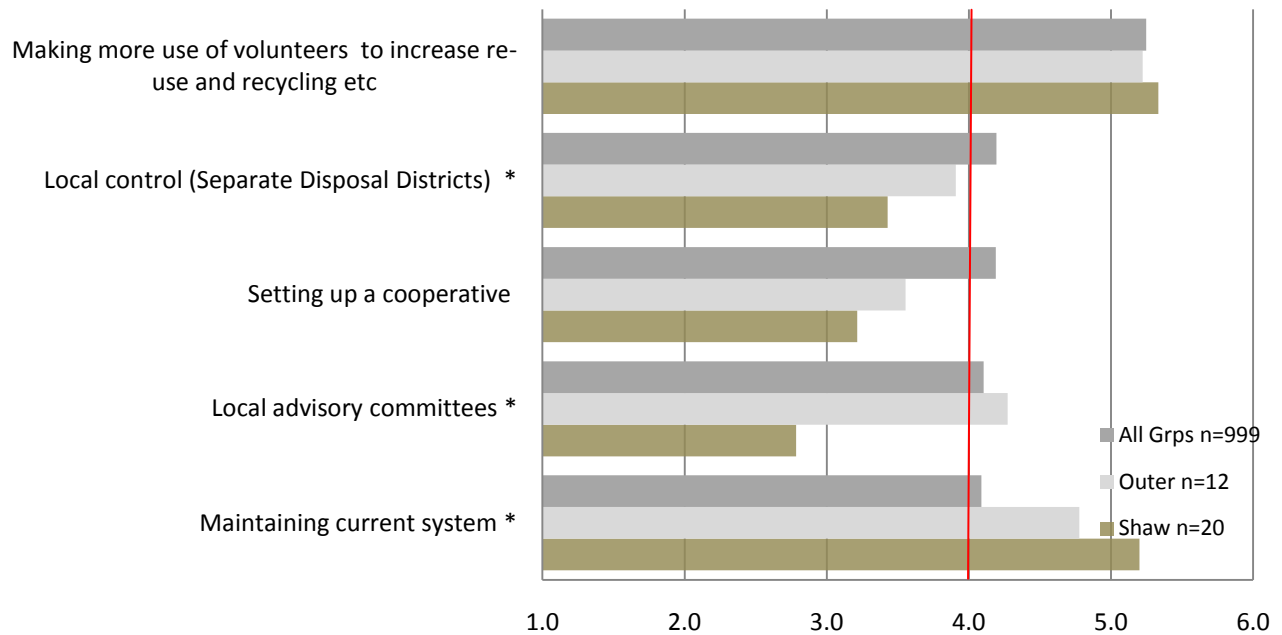
### Exhibit 12: Favorability toward different structures

1 = not at all favorable 7 = very favorable \*statistically robust difference



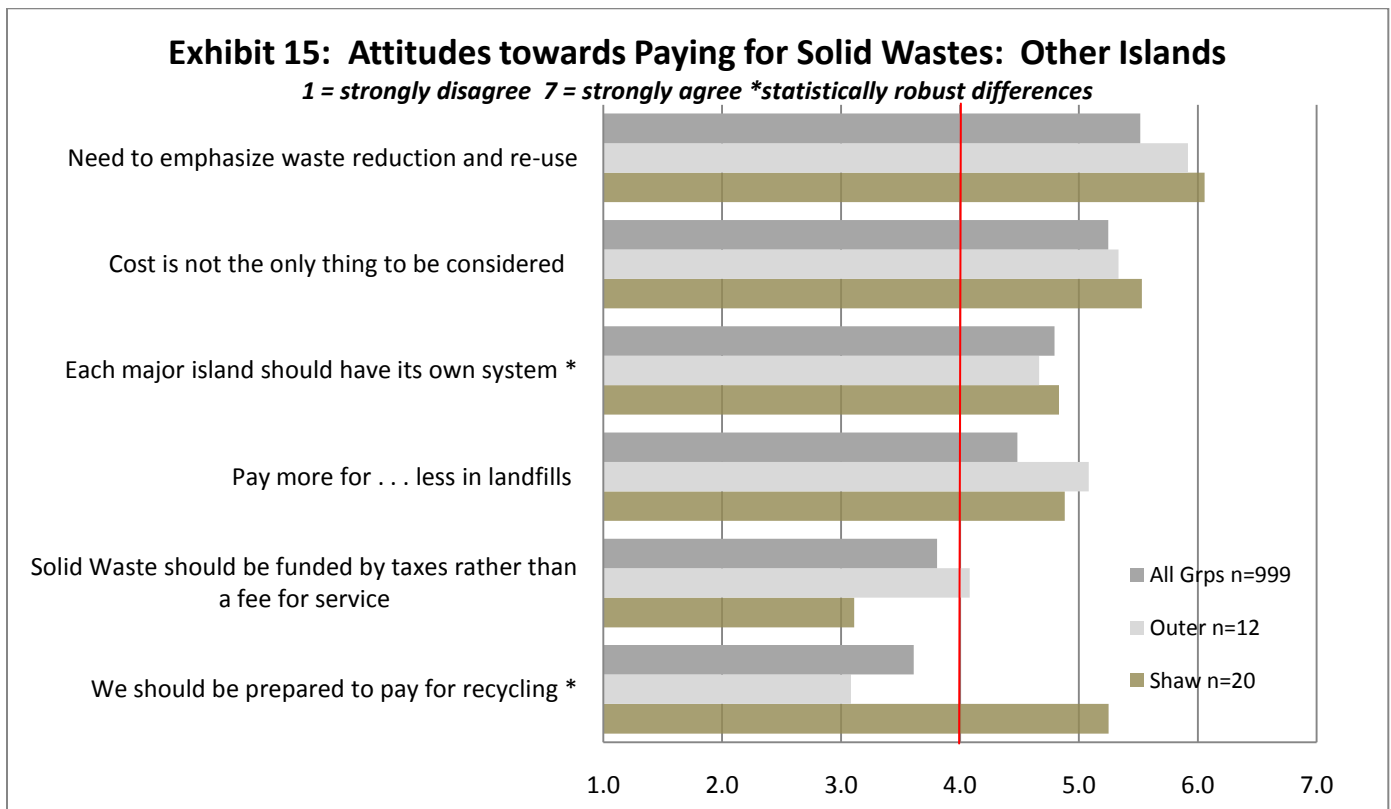
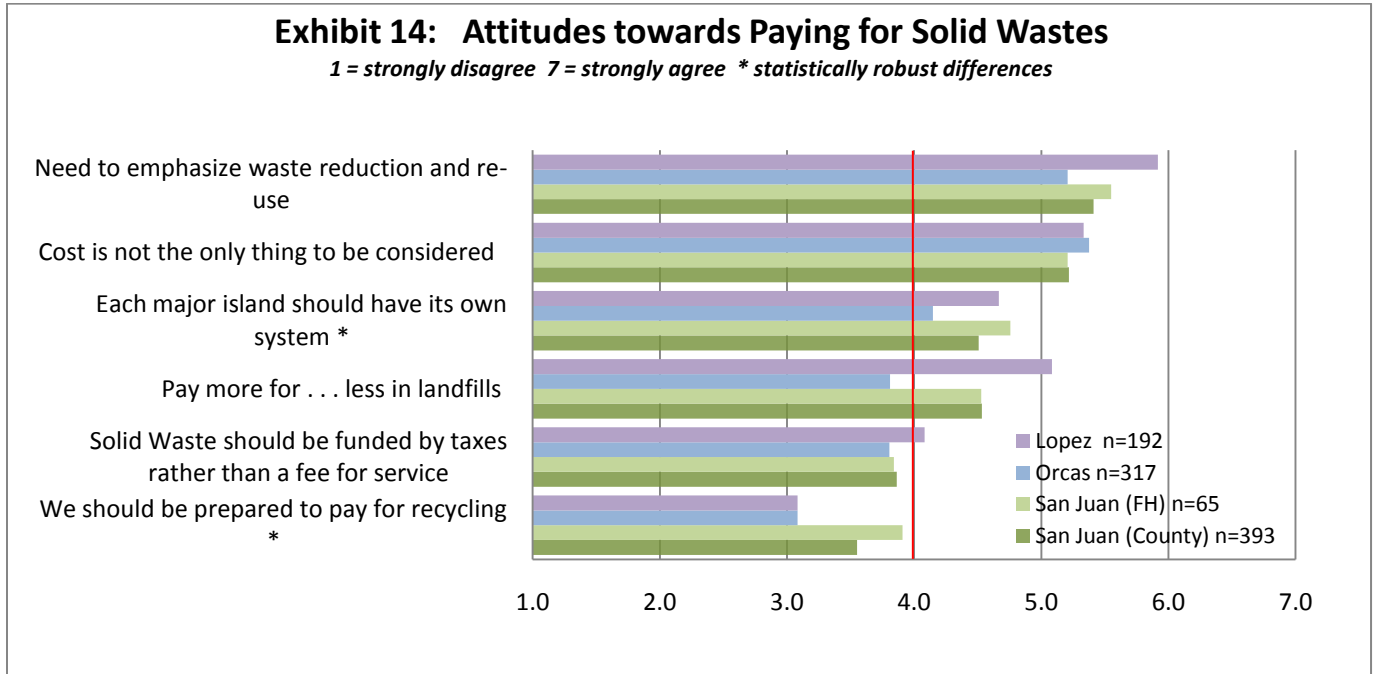
### Exhibit 13: Favorability towards different structures: Other Islands

1 = not at all favorable 7 = very favorable \* statistically robust differences



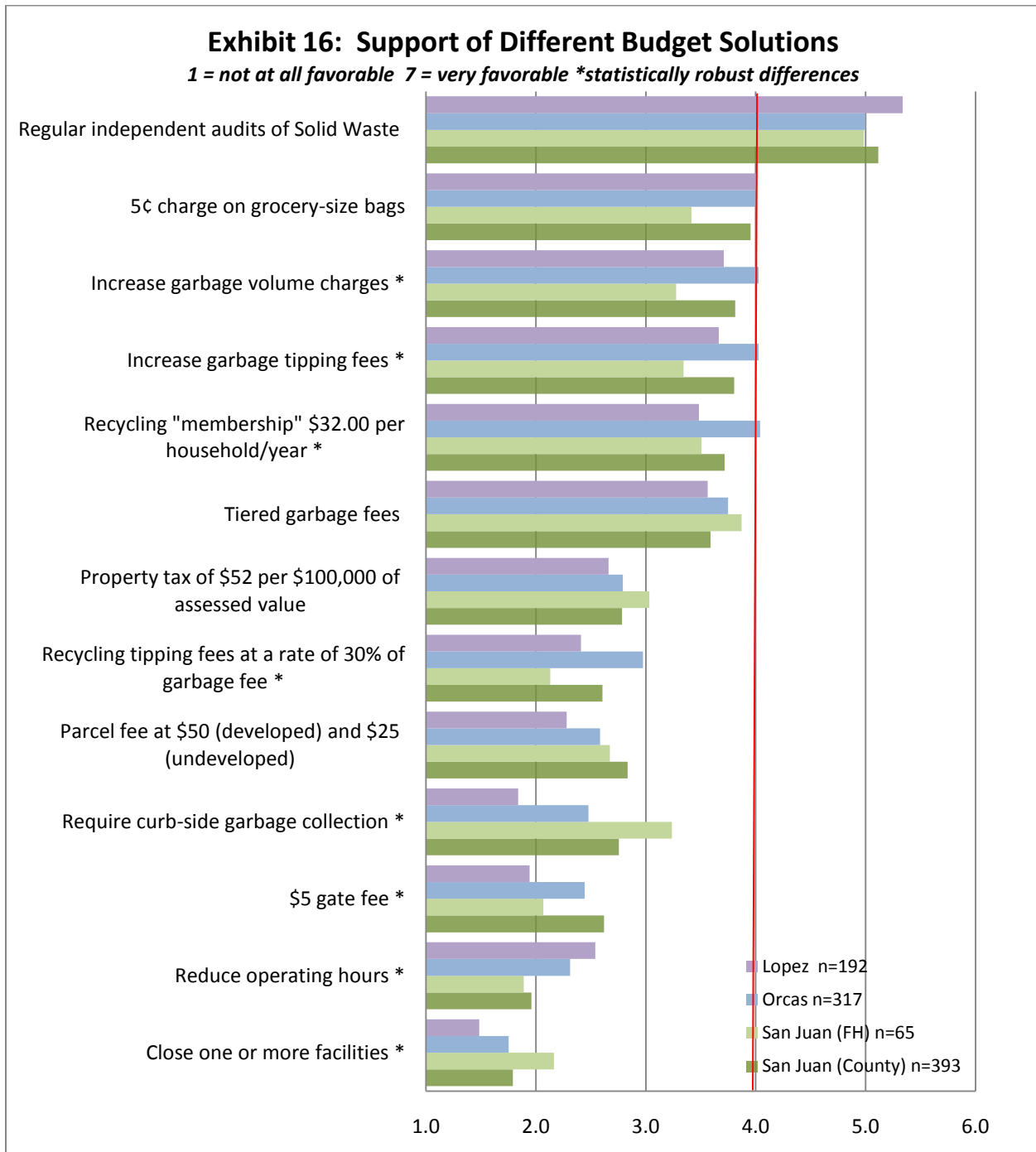
### 10. Island by Island Analysis: Attitudes towards Paying for Solid Wastes

Lopez and Friday Harbor were more favorable towards each island having its own system, and Friday Harbor was more in agreement that residents should be prepared to pay for recycling – though still with less than a median score (Exhibit 14).



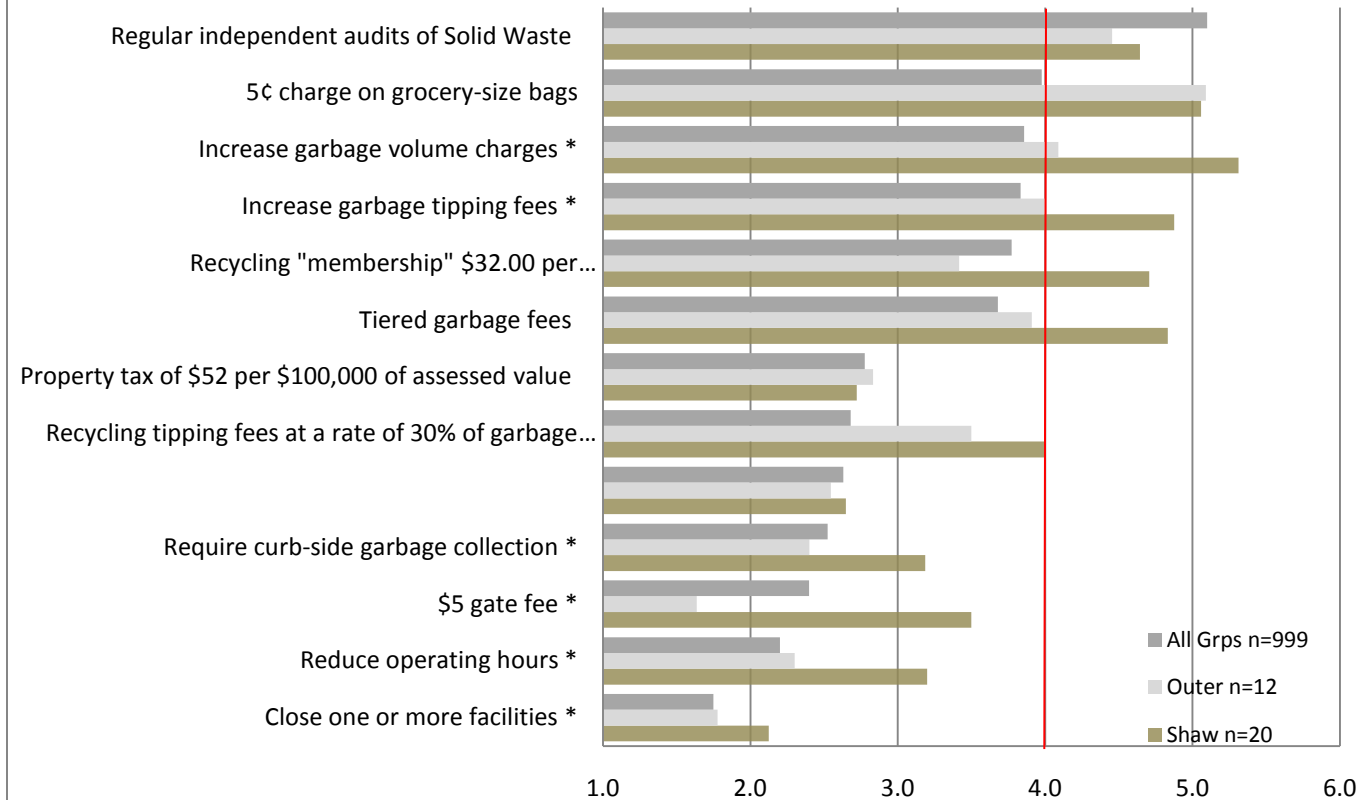
**11. Island by Island Analysis: Support of Different Budget Solutions**

- Orcas and Shaw were the most favorable to all the mechanisms for dealing with budget imbalances that were suggested, with only Shaw scoring consistently above the midpoint on multiple scales (Exhibits 16 and 17).
- Orcas and Shaw were the most favorable to increased garbage tipping and volume charges; Shaw and Friday Harbor were the most favorable to curbside collection.(Exhibits 16 and 17).



### Exhibit 17: Support for Different Budget Solutions: Other Islands

1 = not at all favorable 10 = very favorable \*statistically robust differences



#### 12. Core Group Compared to Additional Respondents

The following four exhibits 18 – 21 show how the responses of people who took the effort to complete the survey on-line, without a mailed invitation (“Additional”), compared to the larger Core sample.

On most questions, there was no significant difference between the two groups on balance. While people holding extreme views on one end of the spectrum might have sought out the survey, so did their complements at the other end. The following points summarize all the significant differences.

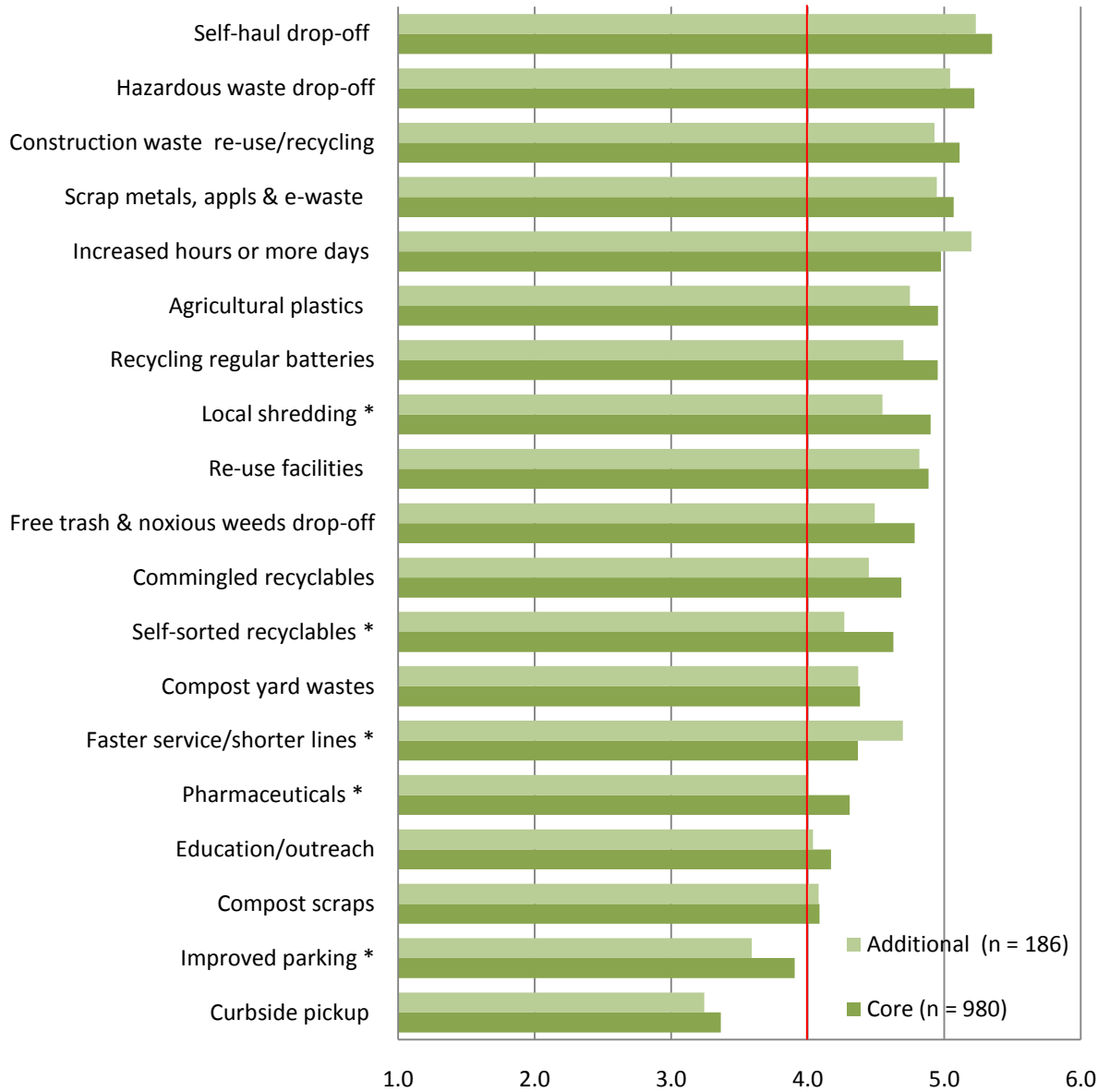
People in the self-selected Additional group:

- Allocated more resources to faster service/shorter lines, and less to local shredding, self-sorted recyclables, pharmaceuticals disposal, and improved parking (Exhibit 18)
- Responded less favorably to “More use of volunteers” and “maintaining the current system” (Exhibit 19)
- Were more favorable towards audits (Exhibit 20)
- Were more favorable towards property tax assessments and parcel fees, rather than fee for service (Exhibit 21).

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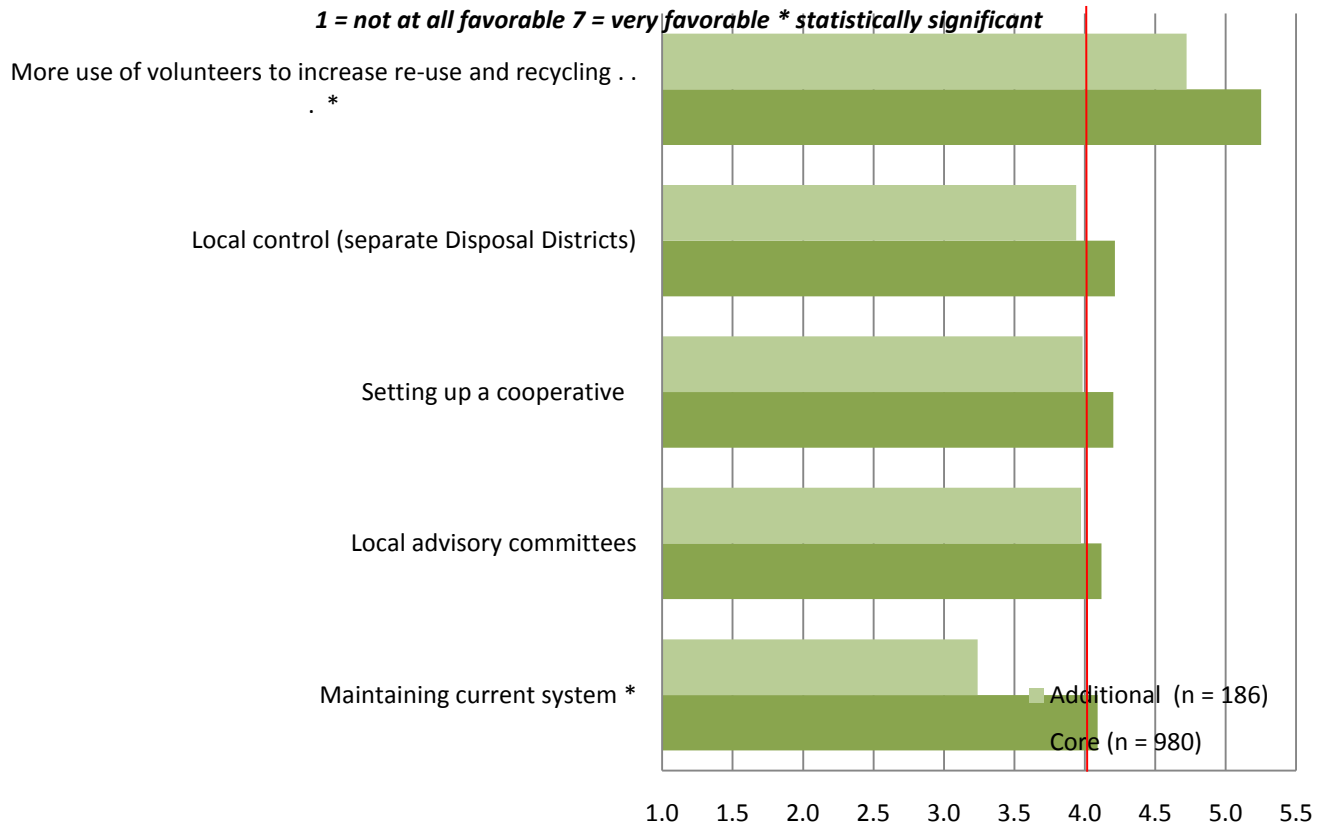
### Exhibit 18: Desired Allocation of Resources Among Services, Core vs Additional Respondents

1 = much less resource 7 = much more resource \*statistically significant

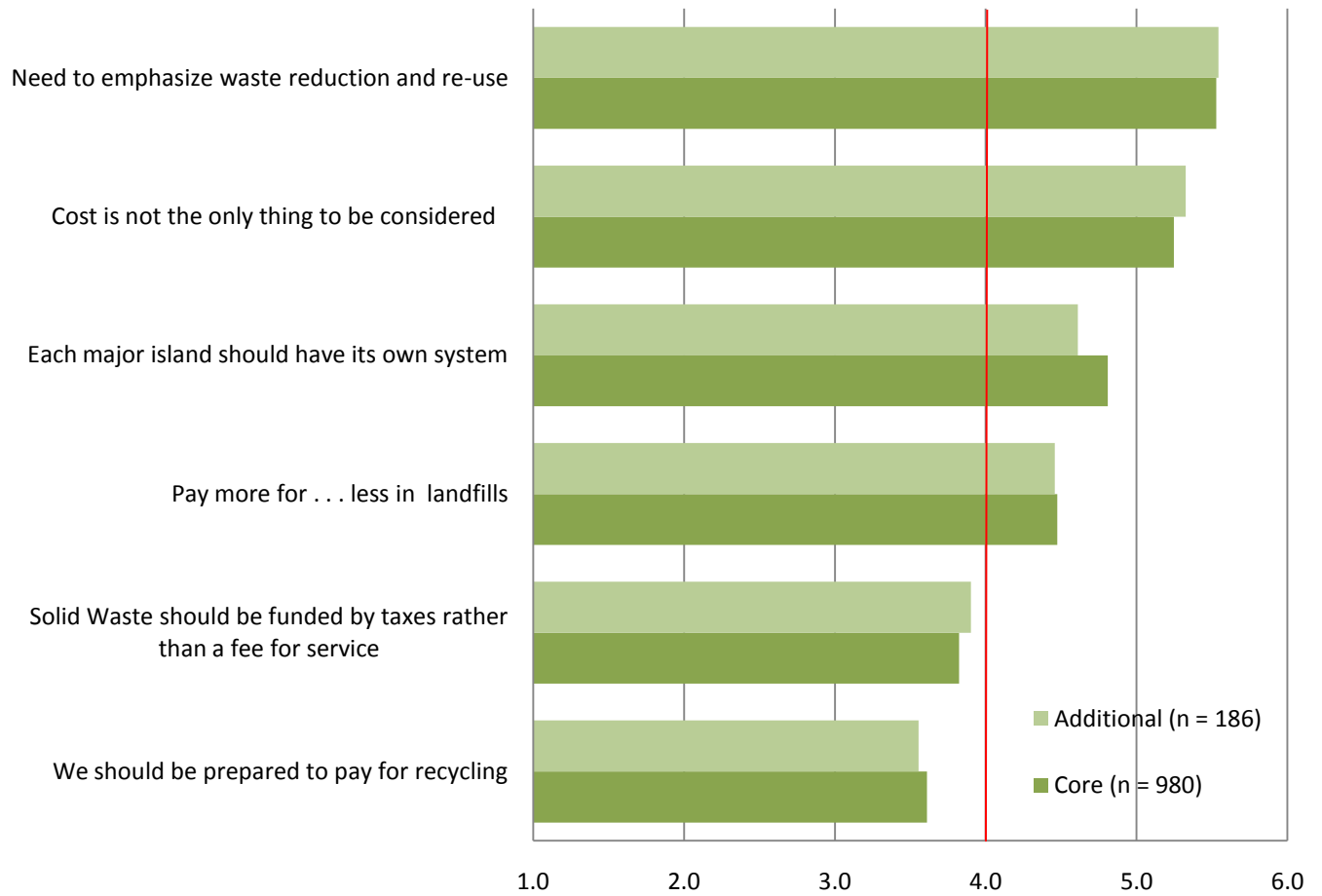


**Exhibit 19: Favorability Towards Different Organizational Structures, Core vs Additional**

*1 = not at all favorable 7 = very favorable \* statistically significant*

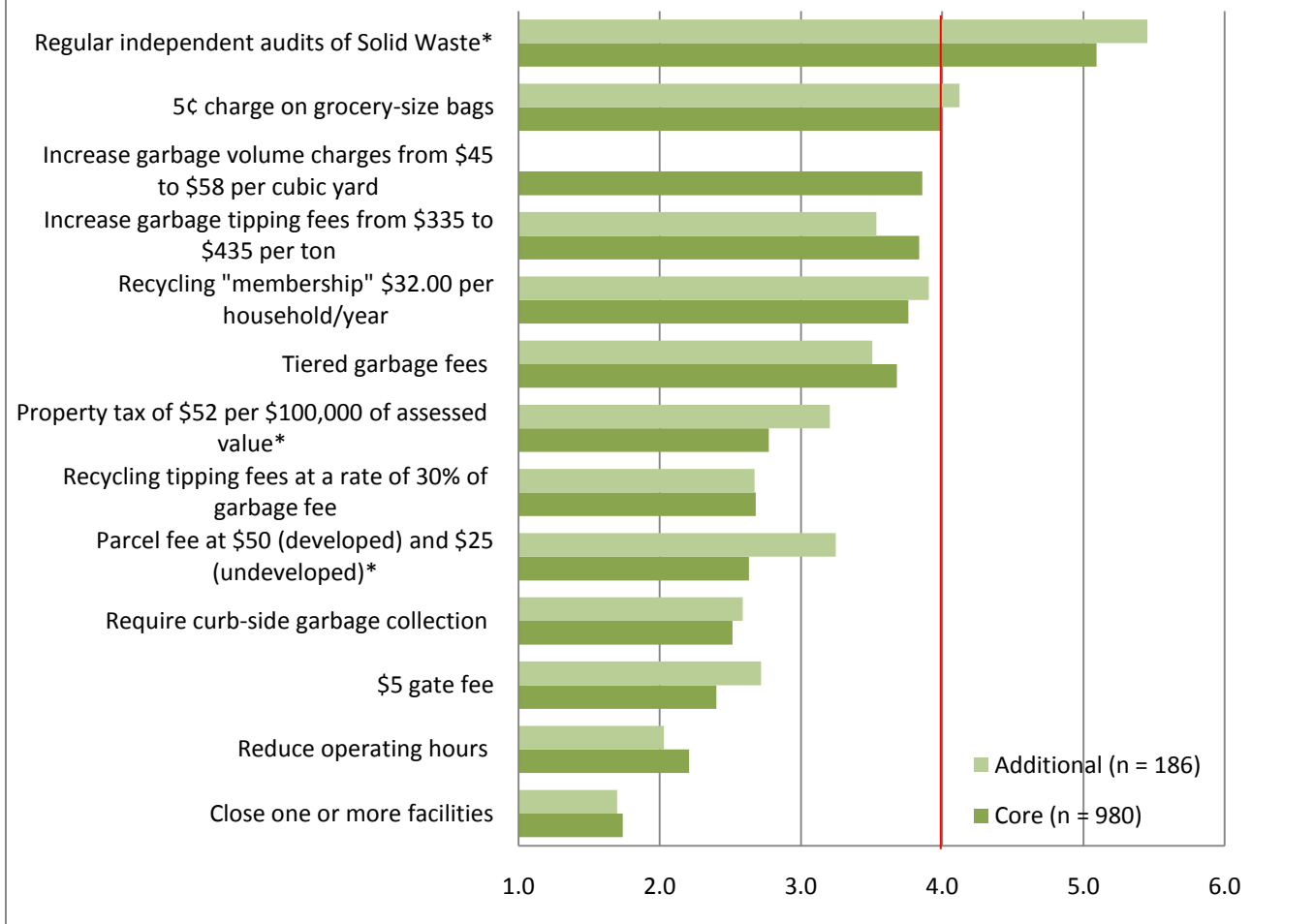


**Exhibit 20: Attitudes towards Paying for Solid Waste, Core vs Additional**  
*1 = strongly disagree 7 = strongly agree \* statistically significant*



### Exhibit 21: Support of Different Budget Solutions, Core vs Additional

1 = not at all favorable 7 = very favorable \* statistically significant



### 13. Analysis of Open-ended Questions

It is hard to do justice to the richness of respondents’ comments in a summary report. Passions ran high on some topics, and for every issue, there were succinct, well-argued arguments for either side. Other respondents contributed lengthy comments on the margins or as separate documents. The responses are listed alphabetized by question in Appendix II.

To summarize the views expressed, we coded the responses by categories established with the first 50 responses, and subjected the coded to the same break-down types as for the other data, i.e. core compared to additional responses, and responses by island. Again, incidences of responses were ranked, and we reported significant differences. We reviewed completely and coded all single-topic respondents; for the longer narratives, a more nuanced reading might have yielded additional codes. In all, we developed 1779 codes in 31 categories for the 752 respondents who had included verbatim responses. These were then counted and ranked (Exhibit 22).

For the top 15 findings, we identified comments that embodied that finding; they are listed at the end of this section.

Meaningful coding of verbatim responses depends on the judgment of the analyst or analysts, and it is very unlikely that any two analysts would develop identical schema. Many categories were clear-cut – recycling construction waste, opening for more hours -- but others were harder to pin down. One variable, “Frustration”, was developed from initial coding which tracked direct criticism of the staff or the county or a call for decisions and action.

***Most frequent topics for core respondents*** The most frequently occurring topics for (Exhibit 22) were:

- Consistent/longer hours/more days
- Frustration (SW management, council, decisions)
- Education in recycling and waste reduction
- Curbside garbage/ recycling pick-up
- Privatize solid waste services
- Recycle more different materials/more hazardous waste

***Differences in verbatims by island*** There were significant differences in incidence in five of the 31 categories established (Exhibit 23):

- Composting was mentioned favorably less by Lopez respondents, than others
- Improved traffic flow was mentioned more often by San Juan islanders (both County and Friday Harbor)
- Lopez and Friday Harbor were more likely to cite keeping the existing system/no change
- Lopez respondents were more likely to mention local control, and
- San Juan County respondents more likely to want to reduce recyclables.

***Differences in verbatims between core and additional respondents***

There were nine significant differences in incidence between core and additional respondents (Exhibit 24).

Core respondents were more likely to mention:

- Keeping existing system/no change
- Paying recycling from usage fees
- Local control
- Issues (positive or negative) with site employees

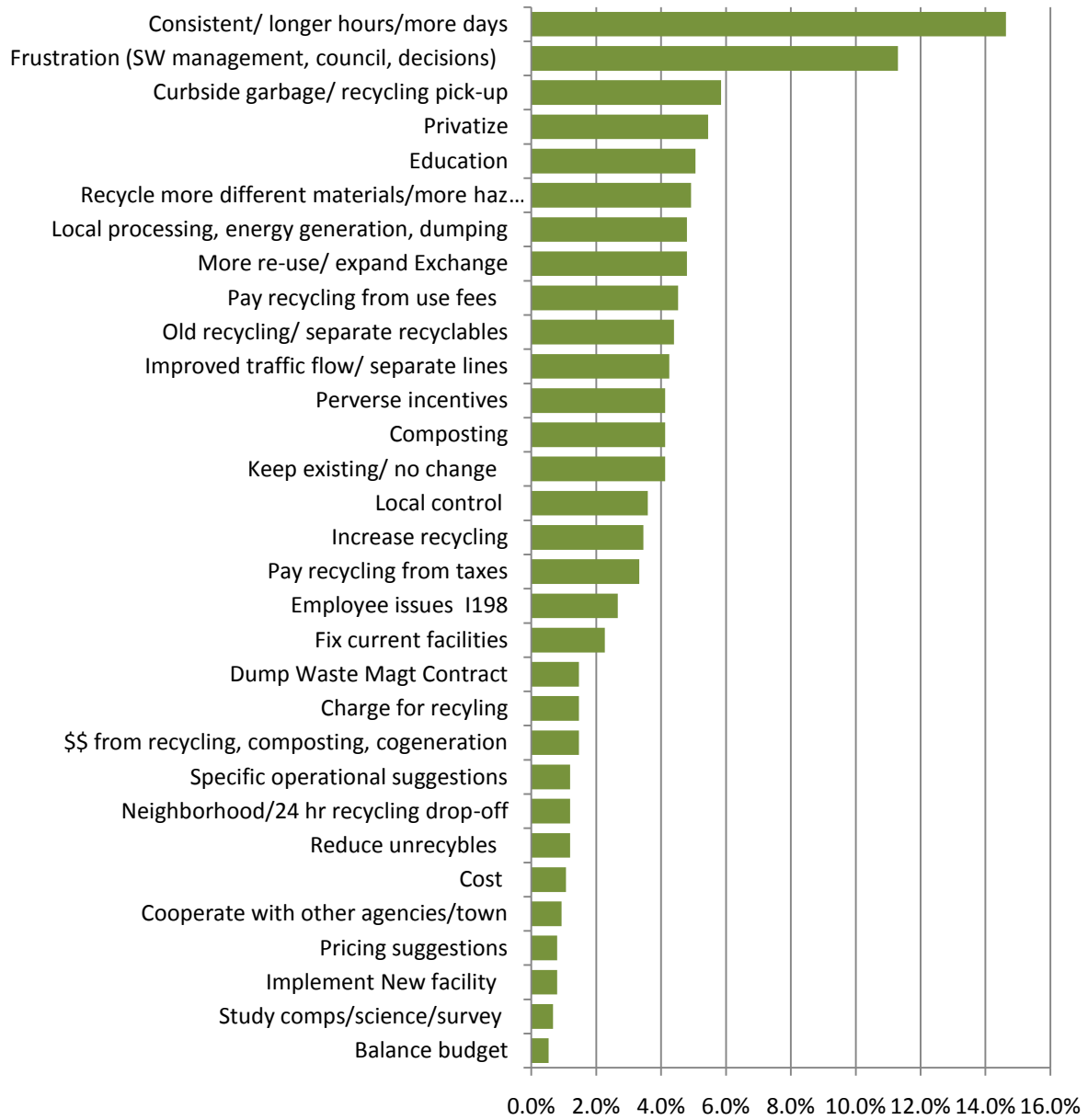
Additional respondents were more likely to mention:

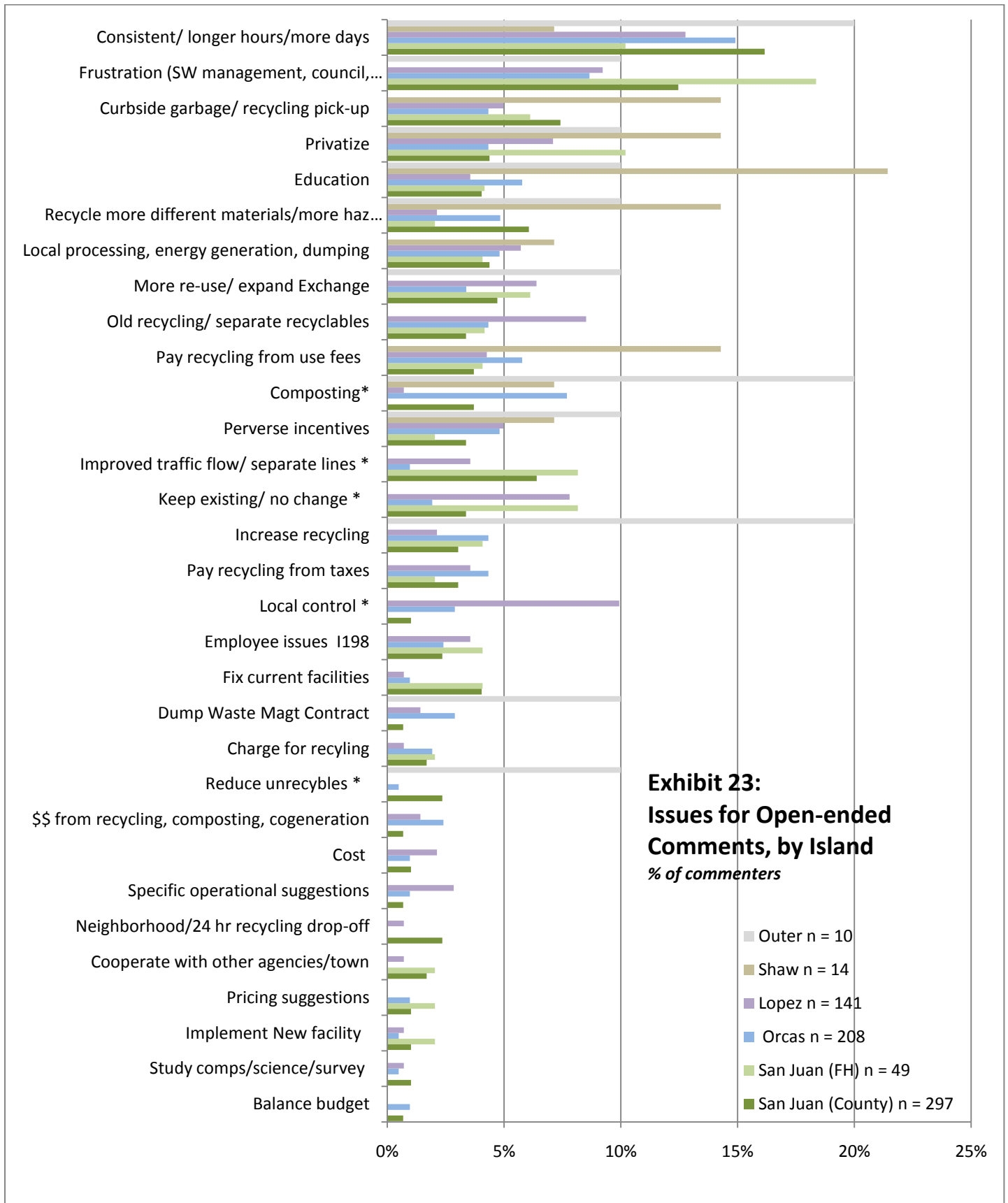
- Frustration with Solid Waste management, the County Council, or lack of decision-making
- Reducing unrecyclables
- Cost
- Implementing a new facility at Beaverton Valley
- Studying comparable communities/current science/this survey.

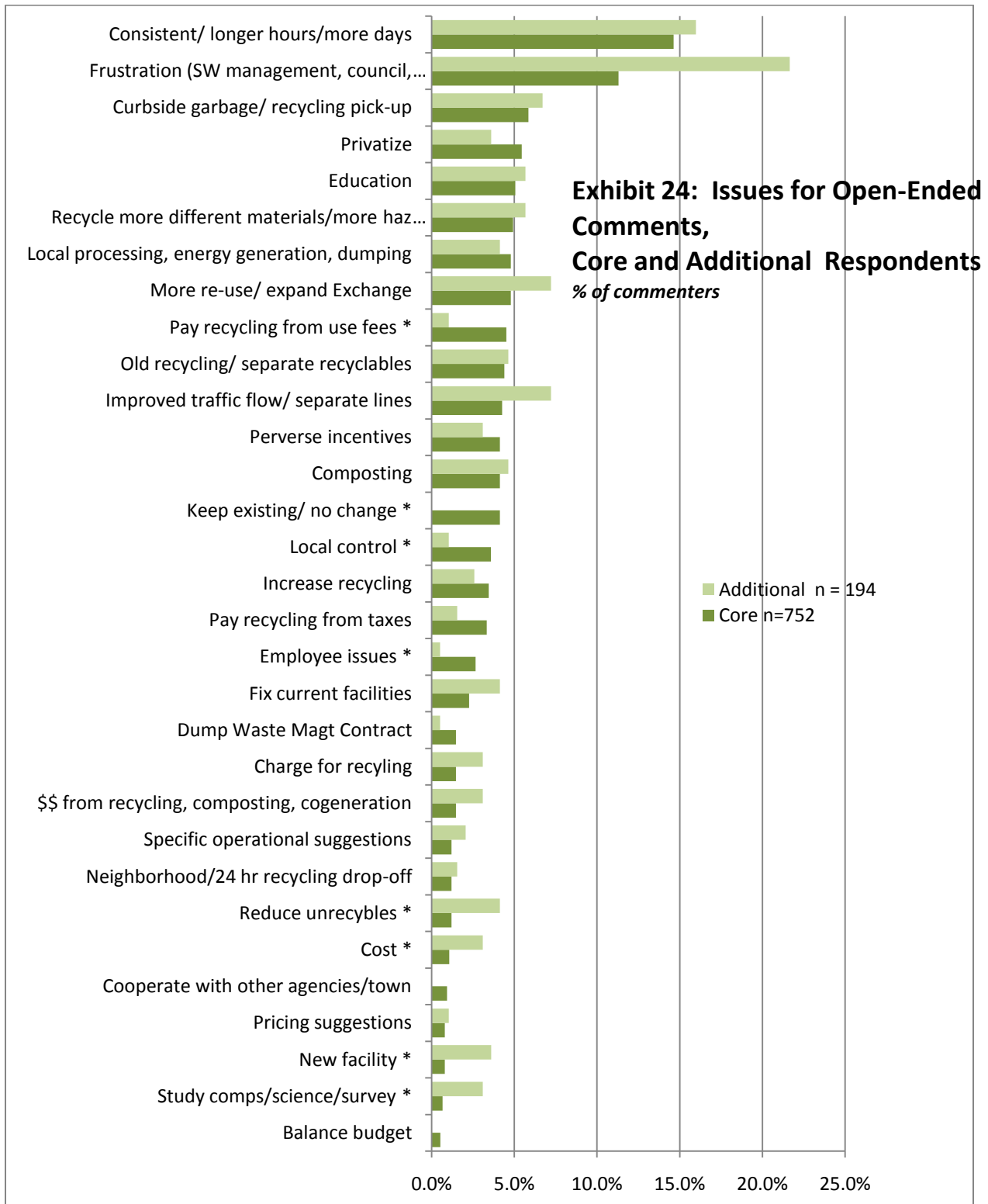
San Juan County Solid Waste: Public Input

### Exhibit 22: Issues for Open-Ended Comments

*% of commenters*  
*Core respondents n=752*







## Exhibit 25: Typical Verbatims

**Consistent/ longer hours/more days**

- *Staggered days of operation. Not just Fri, Sat, Sun, if possible.*
- *Have reasonable hours that allow islanders to drop off garbage and recycling in a timely fashion. Last visit took 1 1/2 hours.*
- *Try to get consistent schedule.*
- *Better hours and days for dump to be open.*
- *Recycle station open on Saturday.*
- *Open 5 days instead of 3.*
- *Open more days.*
- *The station needs to be open more hours.*
- *Make recycling area available 24/7.*
- *Have the site open for more days to Island residents.*

**Frustration (SW management, council, decisions) \***

- *Stop wasting money studying it and start dealing with it*
- *Get rid of all the top heavy people. We can't afford any more studies! Put plans in action*
- *I refuse to do this (complete the survey) because it is the same over and over meaningless expense in time and effort that has been and will be ignored*
- *Make a decision and end 10 years of indecision -- PLEASE*
- *Have county council make a decision! They are elected to lead - not follow or get out of the way.*
- *SJC administration is a collection of development goombahs and incompetent place-holders. They have made a mess of things for at least two decades.*
- *Eliminate executive positions*

**Curbside garbage/ recycling pick-up**

- *Collect recycling from the homes as done in Seattle*
- *Curb side recycling*
- *Pick up recycle*
- *Curbside pick up of garbage and recyclables*
- *Centralize services and end self haul. In favor of commercial, but end the pay-as-you-go system. It's way too expensive to run and needs to be standardized*
- *Curbside pick up of all recycling and yard debris. This would save gas and cut traffic at the dump.*

**Privatize**

- *Privatize it should be completely out of the hands of the county*
- *Privatize our garbage service*
- *Consider private option - get county out of the garbage business*
- *Privatize the operation poor mgmt now compact recyclables before shipping off-island*
- *At our primary residence we receive twice a week garbage pick up and once every two weeks recycling pick up with no limitation on quantity and size limited to that of a refrigerator for 14 dollars per month by republic services. Why don't you entertain proposals by private industries*

- *Contract to a private owner - this survey is a waste of funds*
- *Contract out operation of the system to a private business on a contract (competitive bid) basis*
- *Consider contracting out operations of the system to a private contractor instead of county employees*
- *Think outside the box; consider turning it over to private enterprise would certainly save money.*

### Education

- *Education and compliance a must!! A national problem*
- *Continuing education and promotion to increase recycling and reduce landfill*
- *Annual reminder in newspaper of what is recyclable at facility. 2. Publish proper procedures, such as should newspaper be dumped out of brown paper bags? 3. Be more helpful with recycling information. For ex: Can ordinary flashlight batteries be dropped off some place on mainland?*
- *Awareness and education promotion for recycling-reusing.*
- *Encourage education; we are all part of the mess.*
- *Educating people about their civic responsibility to not to just throw "waste" out in the woods. People are reluctant to pay for garbage service but keeping our community clean, safe and healthy is part of the life's responsibilities here.*
- *Educate the public on how to have less waste + how to recycle.*
- *Encourage recycling/composting w/education workshops, practical seminars, etc.*

### Recycle more different materials/more hazardous waste collection

- *Access to dispose of personal toxic waste, paint, pesticide, asbestos*
- *We need more days for hazardous waste disposal.*
- *My personal highest priority would be convenient, easy and low cost hazardous waste disposal, funded by public tax dollars to reduce environmental damage due to dumping of hazardous waste into our waters and lands.*
- *Scrap metal etc could provide \$\$ if organized properly.*
- *Add to the variety of items that can be recycled through the county*
- *Recycle metals*
- *Drop off bin for prescription drugs*
- *Have building debris recycling*
- *Recycle batteries and aluminum foil*

### Local processing, energy generation, dumping

- *Purchase a large grinder and compactor for all trash*
- *We used to have local glass crushing and using, why not crush our glass on all three large islands?*
- *Forget transporting off the island and create a landfill on each island (like the rest of the world)*
- *Reinstitute local glass crushing to reduce dumpster hauling.*
- *Get back into glass crushing, cardboard baling, newspaper recycling, spend the \$ up front and take back these items to process locally.*
- *In Europe (Denmark) all garbage is burnt in facilities with no adverse effect on the environment. The technology apparently is there!*
- *A waste to energy facility maybe with TARP money maybe in partnership with UW or another county*

### More re-use/ expand Exchange

- *Let some business start an "Orcas exchange" on San Juan. (re-use store)*
- *Reuse waste as much as possible. Have an x-change at each place*
- *Reuse on all islands accessible at convenient hours*
- *Building materials "Exchange"*
- *San Juan Island doesn't have an "exchange site", It would be beneficial for the community*
- *Continue to encourage recycling/reuse.*

### Old recycling/ separate recyclables

- *Discontinue the co-mingling of recycle materials.*
- *Require all to be separated for more reuse.*
- *Return to old recycling*
- *Better to not co-mingle recyclables*
- *Keep glass, paper, cardboard, tin cans separate.*

### Improved traffic flow/ separate lines

- *A drive through operation with a check in point and weigh station, drop off and then drive to another station to pay and out.*
- *Reconfiguring current facility layout, i.e. more separation of recycle and garbage dump areas, separate weigh-in and out stations to facilitate processing and, if possible, enlarge current facility (San Juan Island).*

### Perverse incentives

- *If mandatory curbside pickup and/or payment for recycling is instituted, this will surely lead to more recyclables either placed in garbage or tossed alongside the road. Don't go there!*
- *Make prices cheaper. A lot of my friends are taking their waste items to the transfer station in Anacortes*
- *If you don't provide services, people will adapt. More garbage burning, dumping in the sound, etc. Hazardous waste dumping should be free!*
- *Concern: increased fees=increased illegal dumping on my & others' properties. Would result in increased dumping of recyclables, tires, garbage, etc.*

### Composting

- *Community compost program*
- *Better recycling composting of yard waste and wood with compost returned to community*
- *Compost all garbage on islands*
- *Large scale composting - preferable privately run, county incentive to use*